Russian Revolution DBQ

Create a vertical timeline of the events listed. For each event write one detail about the event you learned from a primary source.

1905 Revolution

Very often the peasants do not have enough allotment land, and cannot during the year feed themselves, clothe themselves, heat their homes, keep their tools and livestock, secure seed for sowing, and lastly discharge all their taxes and obligations, to the state - police report (1905)

Protesters in Moscow. The banner reads, “Workers of the world, unite!” The protests became known as “Bloody Sunday” when over 100 marchers were shot by government troops. As a result of this revolution, the tsar set up the Duma (Russian Parliament)

Russia in WWI

They drove us and we went. Where was I going and why? To kill the Germans! But why? I didn't know. I arrived in the trenches, which were terrifying and appalling. I listened as our company commander beat a soldier, beat him about the head with a whip. Blood poured from the poor man’s head. Well, I thought, as soon as he begins to beat me, I’ll skewer him with my bayonet and be taken prisoner. I thought who really is my enemy: the Germans or the company commander? I still couldn't see the Germans, but here in front of me was the commander. The lice bit me in the trenches. I was overcome with dejection. And then as we were retreating I was taken prisoner - A Russian draftee during World War I
February Revolution

Comrades, if we cannot get a loaf of bread for ourselves in a righteous way, then we must do everything: we must go ahead and solve our problem by force... Comrades, arm yourselves with everything possible - bolts, screws, rocks and go out of the factory and start smashing the first shop you find - a Russian striker (1917)

We see that the senseless slaughter and destruction of the war is essential to no one but the parasite bourgeoisie – Dinamo Factory Worker's Resolution (1917)

- Thursday, February 23: In Petrograd all day processions have been parading the main streets. At several points the mob shouted “for bread and peace!”
- Friday, February 24: 'This morning the excitement in industrial circles took a violent form. Many bakeries were looted. At several points the Cossacks charged the crowd and killed a number of workmen.
- Monday, February 27: The Volhynian regiment mutinied during the night, killed its officers and was parading the city, calling on the people to take part in the revolution and try to win over troops who still remained loyal... Soldiers were helping civilians erect barricades... fighting was in progress in every part of the city - French Ambassador Maurice Paleologue Account of the February Revolution (1917)

October Revolution

Slogan of Lenin: “Land, Peace, and Bread”

Supported by an overwhelming majority of the workers, soldiers and peasants, and basing itself on the victorious insurrection of the workers and the garrison of Petrograd, the Congress hereby resolves to take government power in its own hands. The Provisional Government is deposed and most of its members are under arrest. The Soviet authority will at once propose a democratic peace to all nations and an immediate armistice on all fronts... The Congress resolves that all local authority shall be transferred to the Soviets of the Workers’, Soldiers’, and Peasants’ Deputies, which are charged with the task of enforcing revolutionary order - Proclamation by the Congress of Soviets, 27 October 1917.

Soviet Propaganda posters celebrating the proletariat overcoming capitalist oppression. (1920)
Russian Civil War

Photograph of Red Army soldier about to be executed by members of the White Army.

"You know, hampered as we are by lack of everything, we could not put up the fight we are putting up against the reactionaries if it were not for the real revolutionary spirit of the people as a whole. The reactionaries have money, munitions, supplies of all kinds, instructors, from outside. We have nothing, and yet we beat them. Do you know that the English have given them tanks? Have you heard that in one place they used gases or something of the kind, and blinded eight hundred men? And yet we win. Why? Because from every town we capture we get new strength. And any town they take is a source of weakness to them, one more town to garrison and hold against the wishes of the population." - Pavlovitch, Civil Engineer, President of the Committee of State Constructions (1919)

Stalin’s Rise to Power

"Stalin is too rude, and this fault, entirely insupportable in relations amongst us communists, becomes insupportable in the office of general secretary. Therefore, I propose to the comrades to find a way to remove Stalin from that position and appoint it to another man... - Vladimir Lenin to the Politburo shortly before his death (1923)

A photograph of Lenin on which Stalin’s image has been superimposed. This fake picture was used as propaganda to suggest that Lenin chose Stalin to succeed him (1920s)
Stalin’s 5 Year Plans

It is a plan for the radical reconstruction of the productive foundations of our country... Our country makes unprecedented experiment of tremendous capital construction carried out at the expense of current consumption, at the price of a harsh economy and by sacrificing the satisfaction of today's needs in the name of great historical aims – Stalin in The First Five Year Plan (1928)

The death toll from the 1932-33 famine in Ukraine has been estimated between six million and seven million. According to a Soviet author, "Before they died, people often lost their senses and ceased to be human beings." Yet one of Stalin's lieutenants in Ukraine stated in 1933 that the famine was a great success. It showed the peasants "who is the master here. It cost millions of lives, but the collective farm system is here to stay." – Revelations from the Soviet Archives

Stalin’s Great Purge

Stalin, you have begun a new stage, which will go down in the history of our revolution as the ‘epoch of terror.’ No one feels safe in the Soviet Union. No one, as he goes to bed, knows whether he will escape arrest in the night... You began with bloody vengeance on the former supporters of Trotsky... [and] went on to destroy the old Bolsheviks, then slaughtered Party and state cadres who rose in the Civil War and carried through the first Five Year Plans; you even massacred the Komsomol [Young Communists]. You hid under the slogan of a fight against... ‘spies.’ But you did not get power only yesterday. No one could be appointed to an important post without your permission. Who placed these so called “enemies of the people” in the most responsible government, army, Party and diplomatic positions?... Joseph Stalin! Who put the so-called “wreckers” in every pore of the Soviet and Party apparatus?... Joseph Stalin! With the help of dirty forgeries you have staged trials... you have defamed and shot long-time colleagues of Lenin, knowing very well that they were innocent. You have forced them before dying to confess crimes they never committed, to smear themselves in filth from head to toe” – Fyodor Raskolnikov, a hero of the Civil War and a Soviet diplomat who refused to return to Russia once the purges began (1939)

“Stalin discarded the Leninist method of convincing and educating... for that of administrative violence, mass repressions, and terror...violating all existing norms of morality and Soviet law... Mass arrests and deportations of many thousands of peoples, execution without trial and without normal investigation created conditions of insecurity, fear and even desperation... he often chose the path of repression and physical annihilation, not only against natural enemies, but also against individuals who had not committed any crimes against the Party and the Soviet Government... Of the 139 members and candidates of the Party’s Central Committee who were elected at the 17th Congress, 98 persons, i.e., 70%, were arrested and shot... - Khrushchev denounces Stalin at a closed session of the Twentieth Party Congress after Stalin’s death (1956)